

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
To: Johnson, Aaron
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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has released a revised timeline for proposed changes to existing rules governing water quality standards for industrial consumption (Class 3) and agricultural and wildlife usage (Class 4). The MPCA has received significant public feedback during the Class 3 & 4 waters rulemaking process and is preparing final rule language. The MPCA expects its rulemaking to be completed in mid- 2021.

Revised Class 3 & 4 Waters rulemaking schedule

Mid-October 2020

Recognizing and supporting the unique status of Minnesota Tribal Nations, the MPCA will meet with the Tribal Nations to solicit feedback that may be considered prior to releasing the draft rule language.

Late October 2020

To give the public more time to review the proposed rule language, the MPCA will post its draft rule on the agency's website during the week of October 29. The agency will not be soliciting comments on the draft until the formal notice period. The MPCA previously asked for public feedback during two comment periods in 2016 and 2019.

Late November 2020

The proposed rule language, along with Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR), will be published with a notice of intent to adopt the rule. The notice will also include a schedule for an administrative law judge hearing. The public may provide comments prior to the hearing.

January 2021

The Office of Administrative Hearings will conduct an administrative law judge hearing. The public will have an opportunity to provide comments during this hearing and in a post-hearing comment period of a length set by the judge.

March 2021 – August 2021

The Office of Administrative Hearings report regarding the proposed rule changes is due 30 days after the close of the post-hearing comment period. The report may lead to needed changes to the rule. If the rule is approved, MPCA will go through the process to formally adopt the rule and submit it to U.S. EPA for approval.

For additional information regarding proposed changes to Class 3 and 4 water quality standards, please visit the MPCA's [website](#).

The mission of the MPCA is to protect and improve the environment and human health.

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